

GOVERNOR'S

WORKFORCE
SUMMIT 2022

The Governor's 2022 Workforce Development Summit

St. Croix – Tuesday, September 27, 2022

*"Creativity and Innovation in the US Virgin Islands Workforce –
Looking Ahead"*

Agenda	
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Registration
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Emcees: Asiah Clendinen Gumbs & Mike Fazio Welcome: Michael Carty, Chairman, VI Workforce Development Board Greetings: Honorable Gary A. Molloy, Commissioner, VI Department of Labor
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Remarks: Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor, United States Virgin Islands
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	BREAK
GOVERNOR'S SESSION – 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	
Grow Your People...Grow Your Business <i>How can small businessowners improve their business productivity and profit margin, develop employee engagement, grow, and improve their services, reduce staff turnover, and enhance business performance.</i>	

Moderator: Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor, United States Virgin Islands

Panelists: Geraldine Pitt, CEO VIYA, **Akeel St. Jean,** President, St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, **Pablo Fuentes,** General Manager, Vivot Equipment Corporation Eleven Construction, LLC

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Who's Your Competition? - Think Globally, Think Remotely

Who are you really competing against? Employers are struggling to find talent. Now more than ever businesses must adapt their workforce strategies to find and retain the right employees. Panelists will share ways industry leaders can increase efforts to build better relationships, strengthen workforce development, expand services across the territory and beyond to successfully thrive in this post pandemic era.

Moderator: Adrienne Williams, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery

Panelists: Chris Richardson, Sand Castle on the Beach, **Janette Millin-Young,** President, Millin Young Consulting, **Ted Schieffer,** COO, The Caravelle Group

Using Technology to Your Advantage: Digital Skills and Jobs for the Future

The way we navigate through the workforce system and the necessity to use cutting edge technology is now a requirement to keep up with the fast-paced shifts in the world of work. Panelists will discuss how businesses can use the digital workplace to help employees work creatively and efficiently to support business productivity and sustainability; how the metaverse and immersive technologies will change the landscape of work in the Virgin Islands. Some of the most impactful trends and how Virgin Islands businesses can benefit from them; how can a hybrid workforce system work in the territory.

Moderator: Jennifer Matarangas-King, Vice President of Public Relations and Governmental Affairs, VIYA

Panelists: Eric Sonnier, Director of Business Attraction and Entrepreneurship, UVI RTPark (invited), **Leon Hughes,** Founder/CEO, NEARiX, **Rupert Ross,** Director, VI Bureau of Information Technology

<p>Economic and Education Actions to Transform the Workforce</p> <p><i>Panelists will discuss the role education plays in economic and workforce development and how education affects the labor force.</i></p>	
<p>Moderator: Sana Joseph-Smith, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor</p> <p>Panelists: Victor Somme, III, Assistant Commissioner, VI Dept. Of Education, Wayne L. Biggs, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, VI Economic Development Authority, Vincent H. A. Gordon, Jr., Ph.D., Principal, St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center</p>	
<p>Lunch</p>	
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	<p>VIDOL/Equus/Core Partners Presentation</p>
<p>12:45 PM – 1:15 PM</p> <p>Keynote Panel Discussion: Thriving Workforces in the New Norm</p> <p>Moderator: Justa Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Dept. of Health</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Kisha Christian, Owner, Neighborhood Pharmacy, Nesha R. Christian-Hendrickson, Asst. Commissioner/Legal Counsel, VI Dept. of Labor, Michael Carty, Chairman, VI Workforce Development Board</p> <p><i>How managers can effectively build connections with their teams by learning of best practices for building strong retention strategies so employees can feel valued and part of a good team.</i></p>	
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Break
<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</p> <p>1:30 PM – 2:30 PM</p>	
<p><i>Seizing Workforce Opportunities in Emerging Sectors: Building a Future-Ready Workforce</i></p> <p><i>Panelists will discuss what it means to be workforce ready. How to recognize the difference between skills and capabilities, the importance of reskilling and upskilling to keep up with business services and productivity.</i></p>	
<p>Moderator: Amanda Wagner, Chief Operating Officer, Employ Prince George's, Inc.</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. David Hall, President, UVI, Cindy Richardson, Director, GVI Division of Personnel, Sydney Paul, Senior Manager of Business Intelligence and Marketing, UVI RTPark, Chrystie Payne, Communications/Donor Relations, My Brother's Workshop, Inc.</p>	

Debunking Myths of Tech and Business

Learn why it is important to keep up to speed with new technology in today's business world to grow and sustain your business. Panelists will discuss challenges and offer solutions on how to create effective training to help your business thrive and succeed.

Moderator: **Michael Carty**, President, Smartnet

Panelists: **Ian Tomlinson**, Omni Systems, **Stephan Adams**, President/CEO, VI Next Generation Network (viNGN), **Rupert Ross**, Director, Bureau of Information Technology, **Kevin A. Williams, Sr.**, Assistant Administrator of Courts, VI Courts

Training and Upskilling Virgin Islanders Now and Into the Future

The importance of upskilling and reskilling and how it can be used to enhance productivity and your business's bottom line, steps you can take to upskill your way to a successful career.

Moderator: **Walter Simmons**, Founding President and CEO of Employ Prince George's, Inc.

Panelists: **Rudy Racine**, Vice President, Equus Workforce Solutions, **Dr. Suzanne Magras**, Director, UVI CELL, **Dr. Jan Tawakol**, Plessen Health Center, **Richard Difede**, President, Gold Coast Yachts,

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Find out what resources and training opportunities that are available to small businessowners. Panelists will discuss new approaches to help you run your business efficiently and effectively, the vital building blocks of every successful small business, how to build a thriving business, meet your customer needs, make your business agile enough to be stable, and flexible to meet your employees needs and satisfy your customers.

Moderator: **Sana Joseph-Smith**, Policy Advisor to the Governor

Panelists: **Ted Gutierrez**, State Director, SBDC, **Cusa Holloway**, Incubator Program Manager, VI Economic Development Authority, **Shomari Moorehead**, Founder, CrucianPoint, **Richard Evangelista**, Esq., Commissioner, VI Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

The Returning Veteran's Place in Today's Workforce

Veterans have a lot to offer in the workplace, skills, teamwork, discipline, adaptability, resilience, and loyalty. Learn how helping veterans find jobs that match their advanced training can benefit the community, and the best practices for hiring a veteran.

Moderator: Gary Molloy, Commissioner, VI Department of Labor

Panelists: Brigadier General Kodjo S. Knox-Limbacker, Adjutant General, VI National Guard, **William "Bill" Metheny**, Director, Office of Field Operations, US Department of Labor - Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), **Patrick Farrell**, Director, VI Veterans Affairs

2:30 PM Closing Remarks